



# Arizona Department of Public Safety

**- For Immediate Release -**

Friday, March 14, 2008

## Arizona Department of Public Safety to take part in joint law enforcement effort to arrest impaired drivers through St. Patrick's Day

Starting Friday, March 14 through Monday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day), the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) DUI Enforcement Unit, DPS Metro East Patrol Bureau, Tempe Police Department, Scottsdale Police Department and several other valley agencies will be conducting joint DUI saturation patrols. These valley-wide patrols aim to deter and detect impaired drivers in observance of St. Patrick's Day festivities.

"This is the time of year when people are celebrating St. Patrick's Day, which falls on a Monday. Many of them may drink too much then get behind the wheel. DPS officers are proud to take part in the effort to get these folks off the road. Our message is simple, if you plan on drinking, get a designated, sober driver. Do not endanger your life and the lives of others by drinking and driving," said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

*The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.*

### **Press Inquiries:**

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